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Part two: biennial programme plan

Programme 18
Economic and social development in Western Asia

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Overall orientation

18.1 The overall orientation of the programme is to foster comprehensive, equitable, integrated and sustainable development and economic and social cooperation in the region, and to maintain and strengthen economic relations between the member countries of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) and with other countries of the world. ESCWA is responsible for the implementation of the programme.

18.2 Policy direction for the programme is provided in Economic and Social Council resolutions 1818 (LV) and 1985/69, establishing ESCWA and amending its terms of reference in order to underscore the social functions of the Commission. Further direction is provided in Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/50, in which ESCWA was requested to provide support to member countries in realizing the Millennium Development Goals, including by building capacities to formulate policies, monitor the progress made and measure its impact and prepare regional reports. In addition, in its resolution 269 (XXIV), the Commission requested its Executive Secretary to increase coherence and synergy with other regional United Nations organizations and, through the Commission's lead role in the Regional Coordination Group, foster partnerships and cooperation with those organizations.

18.3 Together with the other regional commissions, ESCWA will continue to pursue work aimed at promoting regional and subregional economic integration, as well as implementation of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and support for sustainable development. As the regional arms of the United Nations, the regional commissions will use their convening power to continue to advance multilateral dialogue, support regional networks and the sharing of knowledge, and will strive to further intra- and interregional cooperation among themselves, as well as with other regional and subregional entities. The Commission will continue to engage with the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs as a key global body for ensuring coherence on common thematic areas among entities of the United Nations Secretariat working in the social and economic sectors.

18.4 In the biennium 2012-2013, ESCWA will pursue its programme objectives by promoting economic and social integration at both the subregional and regional levels, and fostering solidarity in the international political arena and global economy. Regional integration will be scaled up to cover the Arab region through continued strategic partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa Subregional Office for North Africa, and with regional and subregional organizations such as the League of Arab States (LAS) and the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). The programme comprises seven interdependent subprogrammes that focus on four regional priority areas and three cross-cutting issues, namely:

(a) Stimulating sustainable management of natural resources, with emphasis on water, energy and the productive sectors, while incorporating climate change responses to sectoral strategies and plans;

(b) Promoting integrated social policies;

(c) Stimulating sustainable economic development based on higher productivity and competitiveness and through regional integration and cooperation in a globalizing world;

(d) Accelerating the development, adaptation, diffusion and use of advanced technology, in particular information and communications technology;

(e) Enhancing statistical capacity development;

(f) Promoting gender mainstreaming, the advancement of women and their effective participation and involvement;

(g) Promoting peacebuilding and mitigating the impact of conflict, its root causes and spillover effects on sustainable development.

18.5 The current global financial crisis has had a negative impact on economic performance in the region, resulting in plunging financial markets and real estate asset prices, the collapse of commodity prices and a decline in export earnings. The resulting contraction in economic activity has led to mounting unemployment. Consequently, the need for proactive employment policies to absorb the growing labour force in the region, particularly aimed at young people and women, is more pressing than ever.

18.6 The development and implementation of integrated social policies are yet to be given the same level of consideration as economic policies, despite development experience showing that economic growth, on its own, does not lead to equitable and inclusive development, social justice and social stability. In this regard, particular attention should be paid to both the equitable provision of public services and the integration of key social groups — including women and youth — into the process of development. In addition, greater emphasis should be given to enhancing good governance to ensure that effective processes and mechanisms are established to facilitate transparent and participatory policy formulation and implementation.

18.7 The region is characterized by large gas and oil reserves and production, food dependency and scarce water resources. The water shortage challenge is amplified by factors such as rapid population growth and the overexploitation of available water resources, and will be further exacerbated by climate change, which is expected to increase the proportion of areas affected by droughts, producing significant negative effects on agricultural productivity and other productive sectors which may undermine national and regional development agendas. As such, ESCWA will continue to support member countries in building capacities to sustainably manage water and energy resources, in line with the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation), by promoting integrated water resources management practices to facilitate progress in the implementation of the targets on water and sanitation of Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals. Advocating for improved energy access in poor areas, and the efficient use of energy sources (cleaner fuels, renewable energy resources, etc.) will remain a key priority. ESCWA will also provide technical advice to incorporate climate change adaptation and mitigation responses into sectoral strategies and plans, by preparing regional assessments of the impact of climate change on water resources, advancing the role of the energy sector in reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and supporting member countries to utilize available international resources for supporting relevant projects. Furthermore, ESCWA will continue to strengthen capacity in member countries to improve sustainable rural livelihoods, and increase the productivity and competitiveness of small and medium-scale enterprises.

18.8 ESCWA will pursue an integrated approach to development with a view to balancing economic growth and social equity in the region while paying special consideration to the least developed and conflict-stricken countries. To this end, efforts will be made towards supporting the design and implementation of national policies to promote an equitable and inclusive process of development, enhancing regional capacity to collectively address crucial existing and emerging challenges, through the promotion of regional integration initiatives, advances in intraregional trade and investment, the development of an integrated transport and communications infrastructure, and the facilitation of trade and transport.

18.9 The marginalization of women and their limited access to information and resources hinder the development process in Arab countries. ESCWA will support efforts to enhance gender equality and the advancement of women through: (a) sharing of documentation and exchange of best practices within the region; (b) capacity-building of national machineries for women to better uphold their role and responsibilities; (c) providing technical expertise in gender mainstreaming; and (d) implementing and monitoring international conventions and conferences.

18.10 ESCWA will strive to promote the development of knowledge-based economies in the region through analysis and normative activities, to build local capacity in information and communications technology and to narrow the digital divide. This will be coupled with the formulation of coordinated strategies and action plans for the development of the information and communications technology sector within the framework of the World Summit on the Information Society.

18.11 Developing statistical capacity continues to be essential in order to enhance the ability of countries in the region to generate timely, reliable, comparable and gender-disaggregated statistics for informed policymaking and programme development, and for tracking progress realized in achieving internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

18.12 Security and stability are the minimum conditions for sustainable human development and the full realization of human potential. However, continued instability, conflict and occupation and their spillover effects are a driving force of the development deficit in ESCWA member countries. In partnership with its member countries, other United Nations system offices and other multilateral and regional institutions, ESCWA activities will aim to minimize the ramifications of long-running instability by assisting member countries in formulating conflict prevention, reconciliation and revitalization policies within development programmes that are resilient to continuous crisis. ESCWA will also assist member countries to formulate and implement policies and programmes that address the economic and social spillover effects generated by conflict and/or occupation as well as the impact of emerging global challenges on the most vulnerable ESCWA member countries, in particular the least developed countries. ESCWA will build on its comparative advantage and established in-house expertise in identifying and mainstreaming good governance models catering to the specificities of ESCWA member countries, and modernizing State structures related to peacebuilding efforts with the goal of achieving stability and sustainable development in the region.

18.13 ESCWA will continue to carry out analytical and normative work, supplemented by the provision of technical cooperation support in line with the articulated needs of ESCWA member countries. It will act as a facilitator for the exchange of knowledge and information by providing a forum for networking and

multilateral dialogue on regional and global development issues, while paying due consideration to the advancement of South-South cooperation. Special attention will be given to the promotion of gender mainstreaming through the programme of work of the organization and within the Commission, in pursuance of the global priorities of the United Nations. Similarly, lessons derived from evaluation exercises will be consolidated to improve the design and performance of programmes, in view of the United Nations commitment to encourage and support evaluation practices to enhance learning and accountability.

18.14 The regional support provided by ESCWA should contribute towards:

(a) Increased national capacity to devise and apply comprehensive, equitable economic and social policies and programmes, and to deal with transboundary issues;

(b) Improved coordination of the efforts and resources of United Nations bodies with a view to providing joint responses in tackling multifaceted problems that the countries of the region face;

(c) Enhancing the work of the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions in reviewing and appraising the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits;

(d) Increased knowledge-sharing and South-South cooperation between the countries of the region and with countries in other regions, thereby furthering the promotion of intra- and interregional collaboration;

(e) Enhancing the development capacity and utilization of the knowledge capital in the region.

18.15 It is anticipated that the consultations which have taken place among the thematic clusters of the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs will contribute to enhanced coordination and increased collaboration in major common work areas of the United Nations Secretariat dealing with economic and social development. Moreover, through its leadership of the regional coordination mechanism, ESCWA strives to facilitate consultation processes among the United Nations entities concerned, leading to the identification of priority areas where collective support for development interventions could be provided, whether at the level of the ESCWA region or in the broader context of the Arab region.

Subprogramme 1
Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

Objective of the Organization: To achieve integrated sustainable management of natural resources in the ESCWA region, with emphasis on water, energy and the production sectors, while incorporating climate change responses into sectoral strategies and plans

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced technical, human and institutional capacities of member countries to develop and implement national, subregional and regional policies, strategies and action plans for the sustainable management of energy and water resources in line with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation	(a) (i) Increased number of positive responses, in follow-up surveys received from member countries and regional stakeholders, expressing satisfaction with ESCWA expert meetings and advisory and capacity-building services targeted at achieving their sustainable development goals (ii) Increased number of measures designed and implemented by member countries, with ESCWA support, for the integrated sustainable management of natural resources, in line with the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation
(b) Enhanced capacity of Governments and other public and private stakeholders to incorporate climate change responses into sectoral strategies and plans, and to stimulate financial and technical supports for the inclusion of climate change issues into plans and strategies	(b) (i) Increased number of countries implementing sustainable energy plans and initiatives including projects formulated or implemented with ESCWA support and financed through the clean development mechanism and other international financing mechanisms (ii) Increased number of partners contributing to the preparation of ESCWA regional assessments and measures for climate change adaptation
(c) Strengthened capacity in member countries to develop and apply best practices and plans for improving sustainable agriculture and rural livelihood and increasing the productivity and competitiveness of small and medium-scale enterprises, in support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals	(c) (i) Increased number of measures taken by small and medium-scale enterprises, with ESCWA assistance, to adopt environmentally sound technologies and their possible applications for sustainable rural livelihoods (ii) Increased number of plans developed and best practices applied by member countries, based on ESCWA initiatives and support, for enhancing access to basic energy, water and sanitation services

Strategy

18.16 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Sustainable Development and Productivity Division. The subprogramme will concentrate on enhancing knowledge and facilitating the formulation, adoption and implementation of integrated sustainable development strategies and policies in the light of the relevant global mandates arising from the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation, the Millennium Development Goals, in particular Goal 1 (eradicate extreme poverty and hunger) and Goal 7 (ensure environmental sustainability), as well as the outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change at its thirteenth session, held in Bali, Indonesia, from 3 to 15 December 2007 and at its fifteenth session, held in Copenhagen, from 7 to 18 December 2009.

18.17 The subprogramme will continue to:

(a) Advocate and promote sustainable production and consumption patterns of energy and water resources, including improved access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation for a wider section of the region's population;

(b) Serve as a forum for promoting policy dialogue as a means to enhance synergy, among the countries in the region, on sustainable development priority issues including climate change adaptation and mitigation;

(c) Facilitate cooperation among its member countries on the management of shared water resources and the development of energy networks;

(d) Increase awareness of the possible impacts of climate change on water resources, and the precautionary measures and means needed to integrate climate change responses into sectoral strategies and plans;

(e) Support national and regional capacity-building, especially in the fields of integrated water resources management, energy efficiency, renewable energy applications and cleaner fossil fuels;

(f) Facilitate regional coordination and preparation for the implementation of regional and global commitments on sustainable development, in particular on the thematic areas to be addressed by the Commission on Sustainable Development.

18.18 In support of achieving the Millennium Development Goals, the subprogramme will also promote sustainable rural livelihood approaches and increase the productivity and competitiveness of small and medium-scale enterprises.

18.19 This will be achieved by undertaking quality research and analytical work; disseminating best practices; building capacity and rendering advisory services on priority sustainable development issues; promoting intra- and interregional cooperation on sustainable development and issues relating to climate change, through partnerships with other regional commissions, international mechanisms for financing actions relating to climate change, and regional organizations, in particular LAS, GCC, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Regional Office for West Asia, the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization; and strengthening ESCWA regional mechanisms for coordination on energy and water as regional forums for advancing sustainable development issues such as those identified in UN-Water and UN-Energy, and the UNEP Environmental Management Group.

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

Objective of the Organization: To enhance the capacity of member countries to adopt social policies and institutional mechanisms that promote an equitable and inclusive process of social development, taking into consideration regional specificities

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Strengthened national capacity to develop a rights-based social policy that promotes social integration, including for vulnerable groups	(a) (i) Increased number of national institutions that generate knowledge and information on vulnerability and vulnerable groups, with ESCWA assistance (ii) Increased number of evidence-based policies and programmes on social integration initiated by member countries, with ESCWA assistance
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to address the integration of various sociodemographic groups, in particular youth, the elderly and labour migrants, in the process of development	(b) (i) Total number of countries responding, with ESCWA assistance, to the World Programme of Action on Youth (ii) Increased number of measures and policy provisions adopted by member countries to integrate ageing and labour mobility priorities in development plans and programmes
(c) Enhanced partnership between Governments and civil society organizations in designing, implementing and monitoring development policies, including social policies, and related programmes and projects	(c) (i) Increased number of advisory processes, networks and agreements on the approaches to participatory social development, local development, and related capacity-building programmes, supported by ESCWA (ii) Increased number of instances in which civil society organizations and other institutions are consulted in the process of design, implementation and monitoring of policies by Governments, with ESCWA assistance

Strategy

18.20 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Social Development Division. The subprogramme will build on the experience gained in previous bienniums and will continue to advocate equity, social justice, inclusion and participation as the guiding social development principles.

18.21 During the biennium 2012-2013, particular attention will be paid to promoting: (a) an integrated approach to social policy; (b) social integration at the national and local levels; (c) youth development; and (d) participatory development.

18.22 Social development requires the creation of an enabling environment for people to develop their full potential, expand their development choices and lead productive lives according to their needs and interests. Fundamental to enlarging these choices is building human capabilities: the range of things that people can do or be in life. The most basic capabilities for human development are to lead long and healthy lives, be knowledgeable, have access to opportunities and resources needed for a decent standard of living and be able to participate in the life of the community. Without these, many choices are simply not available, and many opportunities in life remain inaccessible.

18.23 Countries that have achieved higher social development dividends and equitable social well-being for all ultimately achieved those targets by creating synergy between economic and social objectives in a way that social development goals became an integral part of national development strategies. The integrated social policy framework rests on three pillars: a clear policy vision; a shared consensus; and coordinated implementation. The policy vision entails both a conviction in the need for social equity and the political will to implement integrated social policy. A shared consensus requires institutional space and mechanisms to promote the dialogue and checks and balances that are vital to ensuring citizens' participation in equitable development. The coordinated provision of social services involves a comprehensive approach to how people are involved with, receive and benefit from social services. In this regard, civil society organizations can play a critical role in terms of monitoring the impact of public and social policies on different social groups, including vulnerable groups.

18.24 Having documented and disseminated knowledge about social development approaches, tools and institutional mechanisms, the subprogramme will seek to build the capacity of member countries to mainstream social equity concerns in their public policymaking, including identifying mechanisms to finance social development. Particular efforts will be made to support member countries in formulating, implementing and monitoring social policies and strategies designed to ensure a more equitable process of human development. The subprogramme will also continue to assist member countries in the implementation of internationally agreed plans of action and recommendations, including the Millennium Development Goals.

18.25 In order to achieve the expected accomplishments, the subprogramme will undertake both normative and technical cooperation activities. The normative activities will include research and analysis on social and demographic issues, the preparation of substantive reports and the organization of expert group meetings. Technical cooperation activities will include the provision of advisory services, capacity development workshops and field projects. Partnerships will be further strengthened with other regional commissions, United Nations entities, international and regional organizations and civil society groups. In the process, the subprogramme will also act as a regional platform for the exchange of experiences, good practices and lessons learned in the field of social development, and for increased interaction between Western Asia and other regions of the world.

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and integration

Objective of the Organization: To achieve economic development and accelerate the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals through appropriate macroeconomic policies, adequate financing for development and the promotion of regional integration including transport and trade facilitation

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to formulate and implement policies and measures recommended in the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, taking into consideration the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis	(a) (i) Increased number of policies and measures adopted by member countries to implement the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, taking into consideration the consequences of the global economic and financial crisis, with ESCWA assistance, through training, advisory services and technical assistance (ii) Increased number of policies and agreements adopted by member countries for promoting regional integration, with ESCWA assistance, through training, advisory services and technical assistance
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to continue the implementation of the international transport agreements concluded within ESCWA for the enhancement of regional integration, as well as the other various components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq including institutional frameworks, transport and trade facilitation and road traffic safety	(b) (i) Increased number of actions taken by member countries to accelerate and enhance regional integration through the implementation of the United Nations international transport agreements concluded within ESCWA on road, railway and maritime transport (ii) Increased number of policy measures taken by member countries, based on ESCWA recommendations, to facilitate intraregional transport and trade among member countries including the implementation of the Single Window Initiative, and the establishment and activation of the national transport and trade facilitation committees (iii) Increased number of measures taken by member countries, based on ESCWA recommendations, to improve road traffic safety

(c) Enhanced capacity of member countries to negotiate and implement subregional, regional and multilateral trade agreements designed to increase international trade	(c) (i) Increased number of requests for technical assistance, including advisory services in trade policy and negotiations, to which ESCWA is able to respond to positively (ii) Increased percentage of follow-up survey responses where member countries acknowledged that they benefited from ESCWA analytical outputs and capacity-building services in trade policy and trade negotiations
(d) Enhanced capacity of member countries in the region in designing and implementing suitable macroeconomic policies and strategies for sustainable economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation	(d) (i) Increased percentage of stakeholders in the region that, through follow-up surveys, acknowledge benefits from ESCWA analytical outputs in the area of macroeconomic policies and development strategies in designing and implementing suitable macroeconomic policies and development strategies for sustainable economic growth, employment creation and poverty alleviation (ii) Increased number of macroeconomic policies and development strategies adopted by member countries based on ESCWA analytical work in these areas
(e) Strengthened capacity of policymakers in member countries and other stakeholders to design and implement policies and instruments to achieve diversified economies and create effective national and regional value chains	(e) (i) Increased number of policy measures taken by member countries, based on ESCWA recommendations, to diversify their national economy and create effective value chains (ii) Increased number of requests for technical assistance, including advisory services, in economic policy and strategic planning, that ESCWA is able to respond to positively

Strategy

18.26 The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Economic Development and Globalization Division. The Millennium Development Goals, the revised Damascus Declaration on responding to the International Financial Crisis in the ESCWA Region, the Monterrey Consensus, the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development, the Doha Development Agenda, the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq, and the relevant General Assembly and ESCWA resolutions provide the legislative authority for the subprogramme.

18.27 To enhance the capacity of member countries in accelerating the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals, the subprogramme will continue to lead the coordination and production of a joint regional LAS-United Nations report on the Millennium Development Goals in the Arab region. The report will be policy-oriented and will suggest practical policy recommendations for member countries that should assist them in accelerating the attainment of the Goals by 2015.

18.28 To achieve its expected accomplishment in the financing for development area, the subprogramme will assist member countries to analyse and evaluate world and regional financial development and propose regional strategies and coordinated regional responses. Emphasis will be placed on the development of strategic partnerships with financial institutions and development funds to accelerate the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the Doha Declaration. The subprogramme will also undertake normative and analytical studies to assist policymakers in member countries to deal with issues related to financial markets development, foreign direct investment, workers' remittances, debt management, official development assistance, regional integration and globalization.

18.29 The subprogramme will focus on enhancing regional integration through building the capacities of member countries in accelerating the implementation of the United Nations international transport agreements concluded within ESCWA over the past 35 years for road, railway and maritime transport. Work will continue on the implementation of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq including transport and trade facilitation for enhancing regional integration and South-South cooperation. Special attention will be given to the implementation of the Single Window Initiative and the continued establishment and activation of the national transport and trade facilitation committees and related regional coordination. The subprogramme will also serve as a regional platform to raise awareness about road traffic safety issues.

18.30 The subprogramme will continue to work to enhance international trade policy formulation for servicing productive capacity-building and utilization of domestic and regional markets, and intra- and interregional trade in line with regional economic agreements such as the Greater Arab Free Trade Area. It will continue to enhance the capacities of member countries in the subregional, regional and multilateral trade agreements designed to increase their international and intraregional trade and their integration into the multilateral trading system.

18.31 In the area of economic analysis, the subprogramme adopts a two-track strategy. The first track consists of:

(a) A continuous assessment of the region's macroeconomic performances for timely identification and analysis of socially inclusive macroeconomic policy issues;

(b) Economic research with modelling and forecasting techniques and normative approaches, including human rights-based approaches to development that are relevant to the regional context;

(c) Putting analytical emphasis on regional priorities such as poverty alleviation, socially inclusive macroeconomic policies consistent with long-term development goals, and employment creation, in particular among young people.

18.32 The second track will be implemented in parallel with the first, by utilizing analytical and normative outputs of the former in order to enhance technical awareness, capacity and networking on development and socially inclusive macroeconomic issues and policies in the region.

18.33 The analytical outputs of the subprogramme will be utilized in order to enhance technical awareness, capacity and networking on policies and strategies pertaining to achieving the objectives of the subprogramme. This will be carried out through organizing effective intergovernmental group meetings, expert group meetings, seminars, workshops, technical advisory services and the preparation of studies and reports. An increased interaction with global and regional stakeholders, and governmental and non-governmental bodies, will be sought to promote regional cooperation in the above-mentioned areas.

Subprogramme 4
Information and communications technology for regional integration

Objective of the Organization: To narrow the digital divide and build an inclusive, people-centred and development-oriented information society and knowledge-based economy in the ESCWA region in accordance with the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society and with internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Perceptible progress towards the development of knowledge-based economies in ESCWA member countries, substantiated by the formulation and implementation of pertinent policies and strategies	(a) (i) Increased number of member countries formulating and/or reformulating information and communications technology policies and implementation strategies, with the direct or indirect assistance of ESCWA, that emphasize the development of knowledge-based economies (ii) Increased number of member countries collecting reliable and gender-sensitive data, and developing indicators aimed at measuring the impact of ICT on socio-economic development, with ESCWA assistance (iii) Increased number of regional initiatives for the development of enabling environments towards a knowledge society achieved through partnerships and information and communications technology applications, with ESCWA assistance

(b) Enhanced capacity towards competitiveness of the information and communications technology sector in the region on the production and service delivery levels with special focus on partnerships, research, development and innovation	(b) (i) Increased number of national and regional action plans implemented by ESCWA member countries for the development of a productive and competitive information and communications technology sector and e-services, with ESCWA assistance (ii) Increased number of national and regional initiatives and partnerships aimed at improving research, development and innovation in the information and communications technology sector, with ESCWA assistance

Strategy

18.34 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Information and Communications Technology Division. Global changes are taking place at the economic, social and cultural levels, with information and knowledge playing a major role in the move towards the information society. The accelerating development in knowledge during the past few decades has modified the principles of economic growth with the move towards a knowledge-based economy affecting all sectors of the economy. Significant differences exist in the capacity of countries to adapt to changes in technology and knowledge. Consequently, the move towards the information society constitutes a real challenge to developing countries, particularly in view of the expanding digital divide with developed countries, thus rendering them increasingly vulnerable to reductions in productivity and economic capacity. This leads, in turn, to unemployment, poverty, corruption and marginalization. Greater efforts must be exerted in order to increase literacy and education levels and tap human resources and talent, especially among women and the growing youth population. With continued monitoring of activities pertaining to the World Summit on the Information Society Geneva Plan of Action and Tunis Agenda for the Information Society, and the efforts made to implement the ESCWA Regional Plan of Action for Building the Information Society in harmonization with the Arab Information and Communications Technology Strategy of the League of Arab States, the subprogramme will strive to adapt the Summit outcomes to better serve the region and fine-tune plans of action in order to build an inclusive, people-centred information society that is based on productive national information and communications technology sectors.

18.35 The subprogramme, in its effort to meet the needs of ESCWA member countries, will carry out analytical studies, convene meetings and provide advisory services to support that endeavour, act as a catalyst for changes in policymaking in member countries and promote the adoption of a more comprehensive set of information and communications technology measurements and indicators that will help strategic decision-making to identify priority areas of policy action and measure the impact of information and communications technology on socio-economic development. It will assess and revise plans of action based on feedback from ESCWA member countries, monitor progress, evaluate impacts and benchmark national development with other countries based on international indices, with a view to improving the productivity and competitiveness of the

information and communications technology sector in the region towards building a knowledge-based economy.

18.36 In order to enhance national capacity, with a special focus on human resources development, and take advantage of the digital opportunities pertaining to socio-economic development in the region, pilot field projects will be implemented in selected ESCWA member countries. Field projects will incorporate a social dimension through the active involvement of local communities, with a focus on employment of young people and the empowerment of women, in order to build a people-centred information society.

18.37 The subprogramme will continue to place special emphasis on promoting an enabling environment and harnessing the development of thematic applications of information and communications technology, including e-services and digital content in Arabic, with the aim of building on information and communications technology as an agent of change to empower citizens and improve the quality of life.

18.38 Building on the accomplishments of the previous biennium in activating partnerships for implementing information and communications technology projects, the subprogramme will enhance regional collaboration and partnerships in activities that will contribute to efforts aimed at harnessing research and development in science and technology, particularly information and communications technology, for socio-economic development. To that end, it will promote the establishment of mechanisms aimed at exchanging information and sharing knowledge among regional players and with counterparts outside the region. The subprogramme will also seek close cooperation and coordination with other ESCWA subprogrammes and with international and regional organizations including regional commissions to promote knowledge-based economies, sustainable development, measurement of the impact of information and communications technology and the empowerment of women and young people in the information society in order to achieve more effective results.

Subprogramme 5
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

Objective of the Organization: To improve the production, harmonization and dissemination of quality demographic, social, economic and environmental indicators, including indicators on societal development and progress towards development goals, gender-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators, in order to facilitate evidence-based policymaking by national and international decision makers and civil society

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Progress in improving the national institutional framework for official statistics, particularly in conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed	(a) (i) Increased number of ESCWA member countries expressing their commitment to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics (ii) Increased number of measures taken by ESCWA member countries to improve their national institutional framework for official statistics, with ESCWA assistance

(b) Enhanced capacity of national statistical offices to produce and disseminate relevant, timely, reliable and comparable social, economic and environmental statistics and indicators, including gender-disaggregated data, in compliance with global international standards and recommendations, particularly in conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed	(b) Increased number of ESCWA member countries adopting new or revised international statistical standards (the System of National Accounts (SNA) and foundational socio-economic classifications), with particular emphasis on conflict-stricken countries and those that are less statistically developed, with ESCWA assistance
(c) Increased Government capacity to produce high-quality data on key sociodemographic, economic and environmental indicators, including indicators on development (societal development and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals), gender-disaggregated data and gender-sensitive indicators, as well as to enhance the capacity of decision makers and civil society to use this data	(c) (i) Increased number of member countries that provide at least 60 per cent of core indicators for the ESCWA statistical database (ii) Increased number of database queries to online ESCWA statistical databases

Strategy

18.39 The responsibility for implementing this subprogramme lies with the Statistics Division. There is a continued need to align the production and dissemination of statistics in the region with the emerging needs of society and policymakers, improving the relevance and comparability of statistics at the regional level in social, economic and cross-cutting issues. Addressing those challenges will strengthen the role of statistics in evidence-based policymaking and in monitoring and evaluating the impact of development policies.

18.40 During the biennium 2012-2013, the subprogramme will make efforts to: (a) act as a centre of excellence and a forum for exchange of views in statistical issues for ESCWA member countries; (b) concentrate on training at the national, subregional and regional levels; (c) work, in close and/or direct cooperation and coordination with professional staff in national statistical offices of member countries, on data quality assurance and the implementation of international classifications and recommendations; (d) respond to requests for technical assistance coming from member countries; (e) assist in the exchange of expertise among member countries; and (f) build trust with counterparts in ESCWA member countries.

18.41 Special attention will be paid to indicators on development for monitoring progress towards the Millennium Development Goals as well as other indicators on quality of life, well-being and societal progress, guided by the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome regarding the monitoring of the internationally agreed development goals. The subprogramme will increase its collaboration with other ESCWA subprogrammes with the aim of improving the quality of the secretariat's analytical outputs and products. The subprogramme will also collaborate with other regions, whenever this may bring benefits to ESCWA member countries. The subprogramme will also aim at enlarging the geographic scope of statistical cooperation to Arab countries in general, in

collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, the League of Arab States and its subsidiaries, as well as with other partners.

18.42 The subprogramme will advocate the importance of full adherence to the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics, especially those which address the following issues: (a) the importance of the impartiality of official statistics and their availability to the public; (b) the use of appropriate methods and procedures for the collection, processing, storage and presentation of statistical data; and (c) the presentation of information on sources and methods according to internationally agreed standards.

18.43 The subprogramme will continue to upgrade the knowledge and skills of the national statistical offices in order to increase the availability, frequency and timeliness of core socio-economic statistics, and adopt new and revised economic and social international classifications and standards. The capacity-building activities of the subprogramme will focus on: (a) economic statistics (short-term statistics, the System of National Accounts 2008, producer and consumer price indices, statistics on external trade in goods and services, energy and industry statistics); (b) social and demographic statistics (population and vital statistics including information on migration, household budget surveys, poverty, employment/labour, health, culture and education); and (c) cross-cutting statistical areas (gender statistics, the environment and sustainable development and issues related to societal development). The strategy is guided by Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/6 and ESCWA resolutions 247 (XXII), 276 (XXIV) and 287 (XXV) on strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region, and resolution 286 (XXV) on gender statistics.

18.44 The subprogramme will also aim at improving harmonization of official statistics in priority subject matter areas. To this end the subprogramme will aim at producing brief implementation guidelines and supplements to global standards, comprising regionally agreed harmonized definitions, concepts and methods. The subprogramme will also work towards the improved coordination of official statistics in the region by promoting data sharing and joint questionnaires among international and regional statistical organizations. This is supported by ESCWA resolution 283 (XXV) on compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems.

18.45 The ultimate goal of the subprogramme is to improve the quality of statistics made available to policymakers, researchers and the public at large, while reducing the statistical burden on respondents, particularly national statistical offices in the ESCWA region. To this end, the subprogramme will promote the development and harmonization of statistical databases, following the international recommendations concerning statistical data and metadata dissemination and exchange, incorporating free and broad access for the public. With a focus towards electronic dissemination, the subprogramme will nevertheless continue the production of printed statistical publications, as deemed necessary. The feasibility of various statistical products will be periodically evaluated.

18.46 To enhance coherence across the United Nations system and coordination among international agencies, the subprogramme will work in close cooperation with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other relevant United Nations entities, development banks and funds, regional and subregional organizations, and other statistical partners and networks.

Subprogramme 6
Advancement of women

Objective of the Organization: To reduce gender imbalances, encourage exchange of lessons learned among member countries and contribute to increased respect of the rights of women in line with international conventions and conferences

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced knowledge and capacity of national machineries for women to implement and monitor the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and be effective agents in promoting a positive role for women in the socio-economic and political development of their societies	(a) (i) Increased number of initiatives (strategies, policies and programmes) for the advancement of women, designed by national machineries for women with ESCWA assistance, are adopted and implemented in their respective countries (ii) Increased number of national machineries for women showing improved reporting on periodical reports submitted to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
(b) Strengthened capacity of member countries to mainstream gender in national policies, plans, statistics and programmes	(b) (i) Increased number of initiatives undertaken by Governments, with support from ESCWA, to mainstream gender in selected pilot ministries and their respective policy papers, structure, programmes and disseminated information (ii) Increased number of gender-disaggregated data sets, including gender analysis publications, developed by member countries with support from ESCWA

Strategy

18.47 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the ESCWA Centre for Women. The subprogramme will build on the experience gained in previous bienniums and continue to advocate for the advancement of women.

18.48 As the recent reports from member countries for the midterm review of the Beijing Platform for Action (Beijing +15) have shown, many improvements were seen in the past 5 years in relation to the status of women in the fields of socio-economic and political development. This is especially true in the areas of education, access to health and legal reform. Nonetheless, representation of women in the economic sphere and in decision-making positions remains one of the lowest in the world. The problem is exacerbated given the limited amount of reliable gender-disaggregated data and information available. At the same time, the need to develop region-specific gender indicators has also arisen among the member

countries to ensure the availability of a comprehensive and effective measurement of the region's development in the field of gender equity.

18.49 Most member countries in the ESCWA region have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and have been periodically reporting on the progress made on implementation in the fields of legislation and actual access to rights. Furthermore, some countries are actively lifting some of the reservations that were made to the Convention. Nevertheless, there is a need to widely disseminate the Convention among States where it has already been ratified and promote it among other member countries who are still considering ratification. As has been shown by reports made to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women as well as the concluding comments and recommendations made by the Committee, efforts are still needed to ensure that member countries are fulfilling their international obligations and commitments and producing quality periodical reports.

18.50 Similarly, most countries have engaged over the past years in gender mainstreaming activities at the national level and in line ministries. In fact, many of the member countries have developed initiatives for national mainstreaming strategies. Nevertheless, work in this area remains limited to familiar terrain and has not been generalized to all fields and contexts and hence has a weak impact on existing structures.

18.51 Although in most of the member countries a national body for women has been established with a strong mandate, the limited financial resources and lack of staff with adequate training have hindered the active engagement of national machineries for women at the policy or programmatic levels. Furthermore, the limited exchange of experience among existing machineries has resulted in the repetition of past efforts without analysing the lessons learned from them.

18.52 Finally, the inability to engage civil society to take an active role in the policy dialogue has been one of the key hindering factors affecting the positive involvement of all stakeholders in promoting the equal status and equity agenda.

18.53 The expected accomplishments will be achieved by servicing and providing assistance to member countries through: (a) needs assessments; (b) documentation and dissemination of knowledge; (c) the provision of advocacy tools and research methodology; (d) the sharing of knowledge and experience; (e) ensuring that socio-economic development issues related to the advancement and empowerment of women are adequately addressed in the intergovernmental debate; (f) assisting member countries in the development and implementation of national policies and international conventions; and (g) providing training and capacity-building activities on gender issues.

Subprogramme 7
Conflict mitigation and development

Objective of the Organization: To mitigate the impact of conflict and its spillover effects on development in the ESCWA region

Expected accomplishments of the Secretariat	Indicators of achievement
(a) Enhanced capacity of member countries to identify, formulate, adopt and implement recovery and peacebuilding policies, strategies and mechanisms geared towards the structural prevention of conflict, mitigating its impact on development, addressing its regional spillover effects and the ramifications of emerging global issues	(a) (i) Increased number of policies, strategies and mechanisms identified and/or adopted by member countries and civil society dedicated to the structural prevention of conflict and mitigating its impact on development, with ESCWA assistance (ii) Increased percentage of civil servants and civil society representatives acknowledging, through follow-up survey responses, having benefited from ESCWA analytical activities and/or outputs dedicated to the formulation of national and regional peacebuilding and conflict mitigation policies, strategies and mechanisms that promote development
(b) Enhanced capacity of member countries to apply good governance models and best practices that strengthen public institutions to pre-empt conflict, achieve reconciliation, peace and attain development goals	(b) Increased number of modern tools and best practices introduced by national stakeholders, in partnership with ESCWA, to strengthen and modernize institutions in conflict affected countries, with the prospect of enhancing service delivery and mitigating the impact of conflict and its spillover effects

Strategy

18.54 The responsibility for implementing the subprogramme lies with the Section for Emerging and Conflict-related Issues. The strategy is a response to the relentless struggle in the ESCWA region with the ramifications of continuous instability and resulting development deficits. It departs from the premise that conflict prevention, peacebuilding and development are inseparable and mutually reinforcing, and must be led by a strong public sector in which good governance practices are applied. Significantly, conflict mitigation measures targeting crisis-afflicted countries will inevitably reduce conflict across the region, and its repercussions.

18.55 As such, this strategy derives from the following: (a) the 2005 World Summit Outcome which stresses the interlinkages of security, development and human rights; (b) the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/63/881-S/2009/304), which highlights capacity development and national ownership as a central element of peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and calls for the support of regional organizations to enhance crisis management capacities; (c) the timely attainment of the internationally agreed

development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; (d) the United Nations Millennium Declaration, which states that development and poverty eradication depend on good governance within each country; and (e) the resolutions of Ministerial Sessions in which ESCWA member countries have called upon the Secretariat to mitigate the impact of conflict, occupation and instability on development, to strengthen the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development, and to enhance regional cooperation under unstable conditions.

18.56 The first pillar of the subprogramme will focus on building the capacity for development of ESCWA member countries, in particular, countries affected by conflict, to implement peacebuilding policies, strategies and mechanisms that are geared towards the structural prevention of conflict or potential sources of conflict, mitigating its impact on development and addressing its regional spillover effects, as well as the ramifications of emerging global issues. The second pillar of the strategy is to strengthen the capacity of member countries to apply good governance models and best practices that enhance the capacity of public institutions to improve service delivery, to pre-empt conflict and to achieve reconciliation and peace and attain development goals.

18.57 The subprogramme will achieve these objectives by focusing its activities on three areas:

(a) Promoting revitalization/recovery policies and strategies, inclusive dialogue, reintegration and reconciliation as part of peacebuilding and conflict-mitigation policies and mechanisms;

(b) Developing the conflict management capacity of State institutions and strengthening the abilities of countries affected by conflict to provide basic services by restoring and strengthening core Government functions through public sector modernization;

(c) Addressing the ramifications of spillover effects generated by conflict and the impact of emerging global challenges on the most vulnerable ESCWA member countries, in particular the least developed countries.

18.58 In order to achieve the above, the subprogramme will examine suitable recovery and peacebuilding strategies and policies to attain sustainable development, as well as human and institutional development, particularly in conflict and post-conflict countries. These interventions will be based on advisory missions, field-oriented situation analysis, desk research and in-depth studies on the root causes of conflict, its impact on development as well as the spillover effects generated. Throughout its normative work, the subprogramme will solicit substantive inputs, including the challenges and the strategic development priorities of member countries and civil society representatives, that are catalysts for peacebuilding. From its normative work, the subprogramme will also work towards developing policies, strategies and mechanisms that attain greater development interactions through greater regional integration. Regional integration policies will be geared towards reducing tensions and preventing conflict or mitigating its impact so as to facilitate attainment of national development goals.

18.59 The subprogramme will also focus on tailoring policies and other interventions that will mainstream good governance practices within the public sector, thereby enhancing its efficiency and service delivery capacity, consequently

strengthening its ability to lead and sustain peacebuilding efforts in conflict and post-conflict countries.

18.60 Furthermore, the subprogramme will work closely with member countries, the United Nations system (United Nations country teams of countries affected by conflict in particular), the League of Arab States and other multilateral and/or regional organizations as well as civil society to develop conflict-sensitive policy recommendations that will enhance recovery and peacebuilding efforts in the region.

Legislative mandates

General Assembly resolutions

55/2	United Nations Millennium Declaration
57/270 A and B	Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields
60/1	2005 World Summit Outcome
60/265	Follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals
61/16	Strengthening of the Economic and Social Council
61/49	Cooperation between the United Nations and the Organization of the Islamic Conference
61/157	Human rights and extreme poverty
61/266	Multilingualism
62/208	Triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
63/17	Cooperation between the United Nations and the League of Arab States
63/227	Implementation of the Brussels Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010
64/1	High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation
64/141	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
64/172	The right to development
64/210	Role of the United Nations in promoting development in the context of globalization and interdependence

64/216	Second United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2008-2017)
64/221	South-South cooperation
64/223	Towards global partnerships

Economic and Social Council resolutions

1818 (LV)	Establishment of an economic commission for Western Asia
1985/69	Amendment of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Western Asia: change of name of the Commission
1998/46	Further measures for the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields
2005/50	The Damascus Declaration and the role of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia in the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration
2008/8	Admission of the Sudan as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
2008/21	Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda
2009/1	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system
2009/9	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States
2009/12	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system
2009/29	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16
2009/31	Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

258 (XXIII)	Strengthening technical cooperation in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
260 (XXIII)	Development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions
261 (XXIII)	Strengthening the cooperation between ESCWA and the League of Arab States in the field of economic and social development
263 (XXIII)	Promoting partnership and resource mobilization
268 (XXIII)	Adoption of the final reports of the subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
269 (XXIV)	The role of ESCWA in light of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document and the subsequent change process
272 (XXIV)	Youth employment in ESCWA member countries
286 (XXV)	Gender statistics for equality and empowerment of women
289 (XXV)	Supporting the comprehensive development efforts of Yemen

Subprogramme 1
Integrated management of natural resources for sustainable development

General Assembly resolutions

57/253	World Summit on Sustainable Development
60/200	International Year of Deserts and Desertification, 2006
61/215	Industrial development cooperation
63/217	Natural disasters and vulnerability
63/281	Climate change and its possible security implications
64/197	Agricultural technology for development
64/198	Midterm comprehensive review of the implementation of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Life", 2005-2015
64/200	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
64/201	United Nations Decade for Deserts and the Fight against Desertification (2010-2020)

64/202	Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa
64/206	Promotion of new and renewable sources of energy
64/224	Agriculture development and food security
64/236	Implementation of Agenda 21, the Programme for the Further Implementation of Agenda 21 and the outcomes of the World Summit on Sustainable Development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/49	Outcome of the sixth session of the United Nations Forum on Forests
2009/28	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development adopted at the high-level segment of the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in 2008

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

255 (XXIII)	The establishment of a regional mechanism for building capacities to manage shared water resources
281 (XXV)	Addressing climate change issues in the Arab region

Subprogramme 2
Integrated social policies

General Assembly resolutions

63/225	International migration and development
64/130	Policies and programmes involving youth
64/131	Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities
64/132	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
64/133	Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond
64/134	Proclamation of 2010 as the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding

64/135	Implementation of the outcome of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly
64/154	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto
64/166	Protection of migrants
64/207	Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/4	Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger
2006/15	Promoting youth employment
2006/16	Comprehensive and integral international convention to protect and promote the rights and dignity of persons with disabilities
2006/18	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development
2007/2	The role of the United Nations system in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all
2008/18	Promoting full employment and decent work for all
2008/20	Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

285 (XXV)	Integrated social policy

Subprogramme 3
Economic development and integration

General Assembly resolutions

60/5	Improving global road safety
63/277	Organization of a United Nations conference at the highest level on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development
64/188	International trade and development

64/191	External debt sustainability and development
64/193	Follow-up to and implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and the outcome of the 2008 Review Conference (Doha Declaration on Financing for Development)

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/4	Sustained economic growth for social development, including the eradication of poverty and hunger
2007/2	The role of the United Nations system in providing full and productive employment and decent work for all
2007/30	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development
2009/30	A strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

256 (XXIII)	Adoption of the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Field of Maritime Transport in the Arab Mashreq
257 (XXIII)	Selection of the routes to be given priority in implementation of the Agreement on International Roads in the Arab Mashreq
265 (XXIII)	Regional cooperation in the field of road traffic safety
270 (XXIV)	Macroeconomic policy for financial stability
279 (XXIV)	Follow-up to implementation of components of the Integrated Transport System in the Arab Mashreq
290 (XXV)	Call for regional action to accelerate implementation of the Monterrey Consensus in Western Asia

Subprogramme 4
Information and communications technology for regional integration

General Assembly resolutions

60/252	World Summit on the Information Society
64/187	Information and communications technologies for development
64/212	Science and technology for development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2006/46	Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development
2009/7	Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society
2009/8	Science and technology for development

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

273 (XXIV)	Follow-up to the development of the Information Society in Western Asia
284 (XXV)	Establishment of the ESCWA regional technology centre

Subprogramme 5
Statistics for evidence-based policymaking

General Assembly resolutions

63/225	International migration and development
64/131	Realizing the Millennium Development Goals for persons with disabilities
64/132	Follow-up to the Second World Assembly on Ageing
64/137	Intensification of the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
64/139	Violence against women migrant workers
64/217	Women in development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/13	2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme
2006/6	Strengthening statistical capacity

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

262 (XXIII)	Support for the Capacities of Member Countries in the Field of Statistics and the International Comparison Programme
276 (XXIV)	Strengthening statistical capacities in the ESCWA region

283 (XXV)	ESCWA member country compliance with international standards for enhancing national statistical systems
287 (XXV)	Strengthening statistical capacities for evidence-based policymaking

Subprogramme 6
Advancement of women

General Assembly resolutions

64/137	Intensification of the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women
64/138	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
64/141	Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly
64/217	Women in development

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2009/14	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

278 (XXIV)	Increasing the role of women in decision-making with respect to conflict prevention and peacebuilding

Subprogramme 7
Conflict mitigation and development

General Assembly resolutions

64/125	Assistance to the Palestinian people
64/150	The right of the Palestinian people to self-determination
64/185	Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan over their natural resources

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2005/3	Public administration and development
2009/18	Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eighth session
2009/34	Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Security Council resolutions

1645 (2005)	Post-conflict peacebuilding

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia resolutions

260 (XXIII)	Development and regional cooperation under unstable conditions
271 (XXIV)	Strengthening the role of ESCWA in addressing the impact of conflict and instability within the context of social and economic development
282 (XXV)	Mitigating the impact on development of conflict, occupation and instability in ESCWA member countries